

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. -- James Monroe*

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## Yugoslavs Waver As Pressure Increases

**Last Neutral State in Balkans Now Discusses Terms with Berlin and Rome**

### PACT WITH SOVIET READY

**But Alignment of Yugoslavia With Germany Is Expected Despite Pro-British Feelings**

Having pushed through Bulgaria to the northeastern border of Greece, German forces in the Balkans last week settled down for a pause. Why this halt had been called when everything seemed in readiness for an attack was a mystery. But while it lasted, the war of guns and diplomacy still moved forward on other fronts. In Albania, Greek mountain troops were driving a smashing offensive into the strongly entrenched center of the Italian army around Tepelini, in what seemed to be the biggest action of the Italo-Greek war. Nazi dive bombers had begun to arrive on the Italian island of Rhodes, in the Aegean Sea quite near Turkey. In the meantime, all signs pointed to the fact that Hitler was making use of this lull to bring heavy pressure to bear upon Yugoslavia, the only state in eastern Europe which has not yet been attacked outright or fallen under the political domination of the Axis or Russia.

#### The Diplomatic Front

What Hitler wanted immediately of Yugoslavia could only be conjectured, last week, since diplomacy can be screened more successfully from public view than can military operations. But certain trends were evident. There had been conferences between German and Yugoslav leaders, to begin with. These had apparently been followed by talks between Yugoslav leaders and Greece, during which the Yugoslav government tried to persuade Greece to make peace with Mussolini. This the Greeks seemed unwilling to do, even though it meant they might have to fight both Germany and Italy at one time. As the Greeks stubbornly remained firm, Yugoslavia moved closer to the Axis. Her premier and foreign minister prepared for a trip to Germany, during which a German-Yugoslav nonaggression pact, and perhaps even a stronger agreement, would be signed.

But while talking of an agreement with Hitler, the Belgrade government also prepared to sign an amity pact with Russia. This injected a curious note into the situation. It was apparently announced because there was still a faint hope that Belgrade might receive limited support from Moscow, and because it might appease the many anti-Nazi groups within Yugoslavia who would rather fight Germany than yield.

Whatever the objective of this gesture toward Russia may have been, it aroused great displeasure in Berlin. Shortly afterward, Hitler was reported to be demanding nothing less than the unconditional entry of Yugoslavia into the Axis. It happened that this demand caught the Yugoslavs at a serious disadvantage. It came, as everyone knows, after German forces had pushed through Rumania and Bulgaria and stretched the Axis cordon around the Yugoslavs to the point where the narrow border of Greece alone remained as friendly territory. It came just after Turkey had indicated that she could not defend eastern Greece, and therefore

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SPRING PLANTING

MCMANIGAL

## Talking About the War

BY WALTER E. MYER

We receive a good many letters asking why this paper carries so much news about the war. Shouldn't we get away from it, the letters ask, and write of more pleasant things? I sympathize with the writers of these letters. I don't like to hear about the war or to read about it. Thoughts of what is going on throughout the world are very painful. I frequently feel the impulse to turn away from such thoughts and to seek escape from the frightful vision of war by keeping my mind on other things; by trying to forget that there is such a thing as war; by reading fiction or history, or by studying problems as remote as possible from the strife which afflicts so much of the world. To a certain extent I think we are justified in doing this. So long as we are not in the physical presence of war we can and should ban it from our thoughts much of the time. If it ever comes to us in its grim and inescapable reality, we cannot dodge it. But while there is a chance for repose of mind, we have a right to seize it—part of the time.

But at the same time we have our responsibilities. We live in this old war-ridden world and we cannot avoid doing so. It is our duty to do what we can toward making it a better world. And in order to do that we must know the facts about the world and the forces which are operating in it. We must understand as fully as possible what is happening even though the facts are anything but pleasant. We have an especial duty to see that our own country steers a wise course through the troubled waters of world politics, and we cannot do that unless we study the course of affairs fully and thoughtfully. But, some people say, should this responsibility not be left to older people? Are not students in the high schools and colleges too young to be troubled by such problems? I do not think that they are. If they study the facts of today's world, they can understand these things as well as their elders can; and they are the ones who will be most vitally affected by the events of the coming years.

No, we should not be too soft to face the facts. If the English can stand up to the terrific and horrible experiences they are undergoing, surely we have the hardihood and courage to look with open eyes upon what is happening. Surely we, who believe so strongly in democracy, can stand it to study the fearful conditions of our time that we may play our part in the great drama understandingly and worthily. In doing this we should, of course, be prudent. We should not neglect the problems of American social and economic life. We should give due attention to the welfare of our own communities. And we should mix with our serious studies as much recreation, relaxation, and amusement as we can. We should give concentrated attention to grim realities, enough of it so that we may be able to form reasonable and well-informed opinions; then we should force our thoughts into other and more pleasant channels. There may, then, be a degree of composure even in these days of chaos.

## Farmers Of America Feel Effect Of War

**Europe's Inability to Buy U. S. Farm Products Greatly Reduces Foreign Sales**

### DOMESTIC MARKET LARGER

**But Loss of Foreign Markets Creates Many Serious Problems; Remedial Plans Are Considered**

The nation was reminded last week that the defense effort consists of more than producing guns and ships and planes and all the other equipment which is needed by this country and by England. President Roosevelt delivered a radio address to the farmers of the nation in which he referred briefly to the role of American agriculture in the defense effort. "American agriculture," he said, "is in splendid condition to play its full part in the program of national defense. Our granaries are full. Our stores of food and fiber are adequate to meet our own needs at home—yes, and the needs of our friends in other lands now fighting for their existence—fighting in behalf of all democratic forms of government, fighting against world control by dictatorships. . . . The farm front is ready for any demand of total defense."

Only a few days earlier, while the Senate was completing discussion of the lend-lease bill, the House of Representatives debated and approved the appropriation bill to carry out the agricultural program of the Roosevelt administration for another year. During those debates the whole farm problem was once more brought to the fore—a problem which has plagued the nation since the close of the last war, and it will be further debated when the agricultural appropriations bill comes up for discussion in the Senate. It is no exaggeration to say that were the issue of farm relief not overshadowed by the more immediate problems of the war, much more would have been heard of it during recent weeks.

#### Effects of War

The farm problem, already serious, has been intensified by the second World War. While American industry as a whole has benefited by the war, the reverse has been the case with agriculture. Instead of increasing its sales of goods abroad, as many manufacturing industries have done, agriculture has found its foreign markets greatly curtailed. Moreover, the defense effort of the United States itself has not benefited the farmers to the extent it has the industrial sections of the country for it has not resulted in a greatly increased demand for American farm products.

Certain action to be taken along the defense front may benefit the farmers in the future, thus enabling him to share in the benefits. For example, in a few weeks, a nation-wide nutrition campaign is to be launched in the effort to improve the health of the nation. This will undoubtedly result in a larger consumption of farm products—a condition which is essential to agricultural prosperity. At the same time, the reduction of unemployment which is now taking place as a result of the defense program and the higher income of industrial workers will add to the demand for farm products and thus assist the farmers. Moreover, the extension of the food-stamp plan, which has been discussed in earlier issues of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, will expand the market for farm products by enabling larger numbers of people to ob-

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"UNDER THE IRON HEEL"  
German soldiers changing street signs in a conquered city (left). A Nazi bookshop in Brussels, Belgium (right).

## American Tells of Conditions in Occupied Countries of Europe

SINCE the beginning of the war, it has become virtually impossible to obtain an accurate picture of life on the European continent. The heavy veil of censorship has rendered the task of newspaper correspondents so difficult that they cannot send out dispatches which reveal the true state of affairs. Only those correspondents who have returned to the United States or those persons who have returned after having lived under the occupation have given glimpses of the way people are living on the continent today.

A few days ago, a book was published which fills in many of the gaps in this picture and gives the most detailed account of life under the Nazi occupation that we have yet seen. It is called *Under the Iron Heel* by Lars Moën (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott. \$2.75). The author is an American who has had a varied career in journalism and motion picture work; he is a scientist who has spent the last dozen years or so in Europe and has a firsthand knowledge of as many countries. He was caught in Belgium by the invasion last May and spent more than five months in that country under the German occupation. His book gives us a complete picture of all phases of life in occupied Belgium.

"There is nothing more astonishing about war than the ease with which the abnormal becomes the normal," he writes at the beginning of his book, "and looking back now I find it difficult to believe that only a little while ago I was living and working in a world which had grown perfectly natural, and which now seems to me quite mad." He is dealing not with a people at war, he emphasizes, but "with a people living in a mockery of peace."

### Food Shortage

Perhaps the most serious problem under the occupation is that of food, and there is a definite shortage in Belgium. The German police control of stores and restaurants is so rigid that many have been closed and fined for failing to live up to the ironclad rules of operation which the Germans have imposed. "The number of German soldiers in Belgium at any one time is about one-tenth of the total civilian population," he points out, "but this tenth undoubtedly receives one-third as much foodstuffs as the whole of the Belgian people."

On the highly controversial question of sending food to the peoples of the occupied regions, Mr. Moën tries to interpret the attitude of the Belgians. The Belgians would naturally like to be fed. "The average Belgian, I believe, does hope that America will send food. Hungry people would always rather be fed than not. But if any of that food is to reach German soldiers or civilians, then the Belgians would, in the last analysis, rather go hungry." The author believes that nothing

will stir up hatred for the Nazis as much as lack of food.

But food is only one of the problems of life in an occupied country. The lack of light is another of the more serious difficulties that have transformed life. In a striking chapter, "Life Without Light," Mr. Moën gives this graphic account of what life is like without light:

### "Life Without Light"

Imagine a world in which your pocket flashlamp has become as indispensable as your front-door key. Wending your way home after dusk through the murky streets, the only pedestrians you can distinguish are those who carry a lighted cigarette or cigar. Many of them you bump into. Every lamp-post, every telephone booth, every letter box means a potential collision. You stumble over each curbstone. You hear automobiles approaching, but barely see the faint slits in their headlamps. You may not use your electric torch in the street, unless you have made its light nearly invisible by means of blue paint. Worst of all are the bicycles, so common in the Low Countries, for you scarcely hear them coming, and while not fatal, a collision with one may be most unpleasant. The only helpful measure I ever discovered was to pick out, if possible, another pedestrian going my way and to follow closely behind him, detouring each time he bumped into something. The method was not infallible, but it did simplify matters.

During his stay in Belgium the author had the opportunity to become well acquainted with many of the soldiers and officers of the army of occupation. Thus he came to learn something of their attitude toward the war. In the following paragraph, he tells us something of the way they changed between the time of the invasion and October, when he left for the United States.

Immediately after the invasion, when every German soldier believed that the war was nearly at its end, the desire to go home was not important. It seemed very clear to them that they would soon be able to do so, and the matter was not worth worrying about. As the months went by, and one postponement followed another, they were not so certain; if Hitler fears a long war, it is perhaps more because of this than of the question of material reserves. Time is on the side of the Allies, not only in a material sense but because the Germans have been taught for years that the war would be a short, sharp struggle—a blitzkrieg, or lightning-war—whereas Churchill has been shrewd enough to warn his people from the outset that the war would be long and difficult.

Mr. Moën believes that time will continue to undermine the morale of the German troops. "At the time I left Antwerp, the morale of the army was slowly declining; how far and how fast it will move, the future will tell." One of the signs was a decided increase in drinking among the troops. Another indication was the uncertainty which was beginning to replace the earlier confidence of a Nazi victory. Details of these and many other phases of life under the occupation are strikingly portrayed in this valuable book.

## The Good Citizen Is Tolerant

TOLERANCE is a virtue which is necessary for the peace and happiness of any people, but particularly so for a democracy. When hatred or suspicion among races, classes, and religions prevails among the people, there cannot be national unity. The government cannot be strong. National security is weakened. It is hard for the people to solve their problems and achieve prosperity. The country, furthermore, is always in danger of being torn by factions and of falling a prey to its enemies.

Tolerance and good neighborliness are not practiced by all the people of any nation. But Americans have been more tolerant than many other peoples. Otherwise a nation like ours, made up as it is of a variety of races and nationalities, religions, and economic groups, could not make the progress that our country has made. Unquestionably we would get along far better, however, if such intolerance as may be found here were weeded out.

To see the consequences of intolerance we need only to look back over the pages of history to see how it has operated in many cases. For centuries religious intolerance was one of the most dangerous enemies of individual happiness and of progress toward higher levels of civilization. The people who lived during the centuries of religious strife were no more religious than people are now. They were no more conscientious. They thought no more of their faiths. The trouble was that the members of one religious group denied the right of anyone else to belong to another group. When they found people practicing a religion different from theirs they wanted these people killed or persecuted or outlawed. Nearly everyone seemed to feel that only one religion should be permitted; that is, his religion. That was intolerance. And it produced wars which wiped out populations, which ruined whole nations, and produced untold sorrow, suffering, and bloodshed.

The religious man of today holds strongly to his faith, works for it, and lives for it. But he grants to his neighbor the right to live according to another religion. He lives on terms of friendship with his neighbor who believes other than he does. He does not want laws passed against another religion. Hence, the people of different faiths live together peacefully and tolerantly. All people do not do this, of course. In every community there are instances of religious intolerance. But that is the exception rather than the rule in America. There is enough of it to cause concern, but we are getting away from religious intolerance.

There are people in America who discriminate against others of different race, nationality, or color. But there is a growing disposition among educated people here to judge each individual according to his merits. The tolerant person may still find his associates and his closest friends among people of his own race and nationality, but he looks upon the people of other races sympathetically. He is willing that all people should have an equal chance to succeed, whatever their race or color may be. He is opposed to all kinds of prejudice and discrimination.

To see the effects of discrimination on the basis of race and nationality, we need only to turn to Germany, where the accident of birth determines whether a man shall be treated as a human being or as if he were a loathsome animal. The persecution of the Jews in Germany is abhorrent to every American who is loyal to the American ideal of tolerance, fair play, and justice.

There are many cases of economic and political intolerance in every country. There are people who hate those who belong to different economic groups. There is hatred among workers against employers and among employers against workers. This is an intolerant attitude. Most people in this country have freed themselves from such intolerance. They work intelligently for rights and privileges for their own groups, but they are considerate of others.

During political campaigns we see a great deal of intolerance. Intolerant individuals feel hatred for those whose political views do not agree with theirs. There is much intolerance against those who hold unpopular political opinions. But tolerance is the general rule, especially among educated people. The tolerant man holds to his own convictions. He works for the causes in which he believes. But he grants the right of his neighbor to do the same, whatever his political convictions may be.

There are individuals in every community who, by nature or training, are intolerant. They do not like people whose customs or habits differ from their own. They assume that they, themselves, are always right and that those who do not agree with them are necessarily wrong. The tolerant man, however, while standing foursquare for his convictions, realizes that he must live with others and that it is better to do it pleasantly and helpfully, admitting the fact that there are differences among individuals.

If you are tolerant, you will not feel bitterness toward those whose religious ideas or political principles differ from your own. You will be kind and helpful toward those of other races and nationalities. You will not be too greatly disturbed when you are among those who do not agree with you. You will recognize the fact that you, like others, make mistakes. You will work each day for whatever seems to you to be just and right. But you will not try to put obstacles in the way of other people who are doing the same thing. You will realize that the world is full of all kinds of people, all of whom have their faults, but most of whom are striving, according to their lights and according to the very best of their ability, to do the right thing and to get along as well as they can with everyone else.

When most of the people act in that spirit, peace and harmony will prevail. Dangerous factionalism will not develop. The community or the nation will not fall into hostile groups. There will be differences of opinion, but they will be settled peacefully and friendliness will prevail despite difficulties. When an issue is settled by action of the majority the minority will accept it in good temper, according to the best traditions of a democratic society. Under such conditions individuals are likely to be happy and the nation will be united and secure. There is always greater danger of intolerance during times of war or crisis. When people are worried and anxious, they may lose their poise and become inconsiderate of others. They may believe the most improbable reports about their neighbors or their fellow countrymen. If they disagree with someone, they may say, and really believe, that he is an enemy of the country, and may treat him unjustly. It is important, therefore, that, in troubled times like these, we should determine more than ever to be balanced, thoughtful, and tolerant.



SYMBOLS OF DEMOCRACY  
MANCHESTER (N. H.) UNION



(Adapted from an illustration in "Our Life Today," by Bacon and Krug. Little, Brown.)



ARMS PROBLEM  
CARGILL IN CONNELLVILLE  
(PA.) DAILY COURIER





THE AUTOMOBILE SALESMAN

## • Vocational Outlook •

### Salesmanship

**T**HOUSANDS of newcomers enter the field of salesmanship every year. It is a popular and crowded occupation, due largely to the fact that it requires little or no previous training or specialization. A large number of people who fail to find other types of work or who lose their jobs turn to salesmanship as an avenue of employment.

Because no specific training is essential and because there is such a great demand for available sales positions, the majority of people in this field make very low wages. This does not mean, however, that one cannot do well as a salesman if he has unusual ability and industry. A large number of persons in this work make good incomes.

If you are to stand out above the crowd in the field of salesmanship, you must learn all there is to know about the product you are selling. It makes no difference whether you are selling suits of clothing or intricate machinery. If you do not know your wares, prospective buyers will have no confidence in you, and you will not go very far. The difference between the competent salesman and the clerk who merely finds the goods which customers ask for is this thorough familiarity with the product. However lowly the job you receive, therefore, you should undertake at the outset to make yourself an expert on that line of goods.

In addition, the ability to get along well with people, to meet them easily, and to win their confidence is absolutely essential to success in this field. Honesty and personal integrity are highly important. A salesman, if he is to win new customers and hold his old ones, must have their confidence. They must be able to rely on his judgment and on his sincere desire to serve them in the best possible manner. Good speech and neat appearance are also essential to success in salesmanship.

One can gain some idea of the earnings of salespeople by taking the averages for the country as a whole. The average wages for all people in this field range from \$34 a week for salesmen of household appliances to \$12.50 a week for salesclerks in five-and-ten-cent stores. The national average for all types of salesmen is about \$20 a week.

These figures, however, give only a very rough picture of what salespeople earn. Wage rates vary greatly from industry to industry and from section to section. They also vary greatly among individuals. The run-of-the-mill salespeople, those with little skill or experience, are paid low wages. On the other hand, those who have real ability and who look upon their work as a permanent career usually receive much better salaries. The average income of all persons who have risen to supervisory or executive positions in retail establishments is \$50 a week—a relatively high salary.

Salesmen connected with wholesale firms make considerably higher earnings than those in retail concerns. The wholesale seller must be more highly trained and skilled than the ordinary retail salesman. He is dealing with retailers and must know

his goods thoroughly. He must know the entire field and be able to convince prospective buyers of the superior quality of the goods he is selling. The average weekly earnings of wholesale salespeople is \$28, or \$8 a week more than that of the retail sellers.

Much of the wholesale selling is done, of course, on commission. The income of the salesman depends upon the quantity of goods he sells. This practice, of course, is not to be found solely in the wholesale field. In other branches of selling, those engaged in it may draw a portion of their pay in a regular weekly wage, and receive the rest in the form of commissions.

A salesman's hours of work depend upon his field of selling. In a retail establishment they are more stable, but if he is on the road or if he is selling such products as cars, his hours will depend upon the convenience of the customers.

## The Week at a Glance . . .

### Tuesday, March 4

House of Commons was informed that British forces in Africa have captured a total of 140,000 Italian prisoners.

Work Projects Administration officials reported that in order to stay within the WPA's funds it would be necessary to drop 584,000 persons from the relief rolls by June.

### Wednesday, March 5

Britain would not comment on reports from Italian sources that an entire division of Canadian troops had landed at Salonika, Greece.

President Arias of Panama revealed that agreement had been reached on permitting United States to construct air bases in Panama territory.

State Department announced that United States and Mexico have begun holding conferences on defense cooperation by the two countries.

### Thursday, March 6

After an absence of five months, General Maxime Weygand, commander of free French forces in North Africa, arrived in Vichy for conferences with Marshal Pétain.

In retaliation for restrictions placed on American diplomatic officers in Italy, State Department closed two Italian consular offices in this country and placed certain restrictions on Italian diplomats.

House Naval Affairs Committee approved legislation authorizing Navy to build up its strength to 232,000 men in ordinary times, and 300,000 in emergencies. Bill was thus made ready for entire House.

Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau announced that defense stamps, certificates, and bonds would be put on sale May 1.

### Friday, March 7

In recommending that Congress tighten up laws dealing with federal elections and political funds, Senate Campaign Investigating Committee reported that at least \$22,000,000 was spent by major parties in 1940.

House of Representatives approved reso-

lution setting up special committee to investigate recent commercial air-line crashes.

British bombers carried out raids along Netherlands coast, including the bombing of an important naval harbor.

Britain was reported to be speeding captured Italian arms and other military supplies to Greece in large quantities.

### Saturday, March 8

Senate passed lend-lease bill by vote of 60 to 31. Differences between Senate and House versions were expected to be ironed out within few days.

President Roosevelt, Vice-President Wallace, and Secretary of Agriculture Wickard made radio addresses to the nation's farmers in connection with Agricultural Adjustment Administration birthday celebrations.

British forces proclaimed the final conquest of Italian Somaliland, with the last of the Italian defenders fleeing into Ethiopia.

Berlin announced that Foreign Minister Matsuo of Japan planned to make a trip to Germany in the near future.

### Sunday, March 9

Britain renewed its refusal to lift sea blockade in order to permit a test of the Hoover plan for feeding peoples of German-occupied nations.

Vice-Premier Admiral Jean Darlan issued statement renewing promise of France's determination to defend her North African colonies against all outside aggression.

### Monday, March 10

France warned that unless Britain relaxed her sea blockade, the French navy would convoy food ships to stave off famine in Free France. Such a move, it was recognized, might cause war between France and Britain.

President Roosevelt held a number of conferences to lay plans for aid-to-Britain steps under the powers which the lend-lease law will give him.

## ♦ SMILES ♦



"I like that commentator—he's so unbiased in favor of Britain!"

DAY IN COLLIER'S

"I turned the way I signaled," said the woman indignantly after the crash.

"I know it," retorted the man. "That's what fooled me." —WALL STREET JOURNAL

"Is your daughter home from school for a holiday?"

"I think so. One of the servants said she saw her day before yesterday." —SELECTED

"What's the hurry? What are you running for?"

"I'm trying to stop a fight."

"Who's fighting?"

"Me and another fellow!" —CLASSMATE

Two small boys were walking in the woods, seeking for adventure and what they might find. One of them picked up a chestnut burr. "Tommy," he called excitedly, "come here quick. I've found a porcupine egg!"

—RECORDER

"You'll have to pay your bill or leave."

"That's real nice of you. My last landlady made me do both."

—ANSWERS

Pat watched the professor, staring up at the sky through the long, shiny black telescope.

Presently a star fell.

"Sure, and the man's a good shot," said Pat.

—WALL STREET JOURNAL

## Information Test

Answers to history and geography questions may be found on page 8. If you miss too many of them, a review of history and geography is advisable. Current history questions refer to this issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.

### American History

1. What ex-President of the United States said, "I took Panama," and had reason to regret the assertion?

2. In November 1832, two tariff acts were nullified by the legislature of (a) Georgia, (b) Virginia, (c) North Carolina, (d) South Carolina.

3. John Hay, once private secretary to President Lincoln, is remembered as secretary of state for his enunciation of the (a) Monroe Doctrine, (b) purchase of Alaska, (c) open-door policy, (d) policy of refusing to recognize the acquisition of territory by conquest.

4. Match the following slogans and the wars with which they are connected:

"Remember the Maine"	The Revolutionary War
"Don't give up the ship"	The War of 1812
"Make the world safe for democracy"	The Spanish-American War
"Taxation without representation is tyranny"	The World War

5. A man who will always live in American history as a great orator is (a) Andrew Johnson, (b) Daniel Webster, (c) U. S. Grant, (d) Calvin Coolidge.

6. Which of our Presidents was shot by an anarchist at a Pan-American exposition?

### Geography

1. The important Greek seaport which is situated near the head of the Aegean Sea and which is now threatened by a German army is (a) Corfu, (b) Athens, (c) Corinth, (d) Salonika.

2. Bulgaria's coast is washed by the (a) Black Sea, (b) Sea of Marmora, (c) Mediterranean Sea, (d) Aegean Sea.

3. To move British troops by the most direct land route from Palestine to Turkey, it would be necessary to send them through (a) Saudi Arabia, (b) Iraq, (c) Syria, (d) Iran (Persia).

4. The Emir of Trans-Jordan rules his country subject to the control of the (a) French, (b) British, (c) Turks, (d) Egyptians.

5. Most of the people of Arabia live on the coasts because (a) the interior is very dry, (b) the interior is mountainous and rocky, (c) the principal industry of the country is trading with foreign lands, (d) the surrounding seas make the winters warmer.

6. If German troops in western France moved on Gibraltar, they would cross or go around the (a) Apennines, (b) Pyrenees, (c) Alps, (d) Carpathians.

### Current History

1. What effect has the war in Europe had upon the American farmer?

2. What is meant by the statement that the American farmer has become the victim of the industrial revolution in agriculture?

3. Present-day Yugoslavia was formed from what prewar European country?

4. What is the importance of the port of Salonika in the present European struggle? What role did Salonika play in the World War?

5. Where is Grand Coulee Dam located and how does it compare with other similar projects?

# The Week at Home

## Lend-Lease Victory

Forty-one Democrats, 10 Republicans, and one independent passed the lend-lease bill through the Senate over the votes of 13 Democrats, 17 Republicans, and one Progressive. After being returned to the House of Representatives for a concurring vote, the bill was signed by President Roosevelt. For the first time in history, the United States, while still at peace, has officially adopted a policy of doing everything possible to help one group of nations at war defeat another group.

The new act gives the President power to help any country the defense of which he considers vital to our own defense by providing it with arms, tools, food, and materials; by outfitting and repairing its ships, and by sending it defense information. While he may order for such countries all the goods for which Congress will appropriate the money, the President may not dispose of more than \$1,300,000,000 worth of equipment already ordered for our Army or our Navy, and he must consult with the Army chief of staff or the chief of naval operations before he disposes of any of it.

The act does not authorize the conveying of ships by United States naval vessels, though it does not, of course, take from the President any powers he has as commander-in-chief of the armed forces. It does not permit the sending of American ships into combat areas in violation of the Neutrality Act of 1939.

The President must report to Congress, at least once every 90 days, any information regarding the operation of the act as may safely be made public.



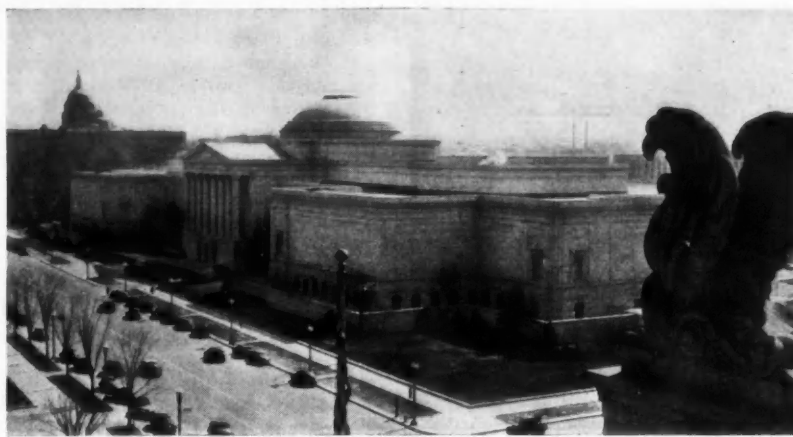
AFTER THE BATTLE

Senators may disagree violently in debate but they usually remain good friends. To emphasize the point, Senators Barkley, Wheeler, and George joined in a triple handshake after the passage of the lend-lease bill. Barkley and George led the fight for the bill. Wheeler was the outstanding opponent.

The lend-lease measure is to expire June 30, 1943. Congress may end it whenever it wishes before that time by passing a concurrent resolution.

## Italy's Officials in U. S.

"The Secretary of State presents his compliments to His Excellency the Royal Italian Ambassador and has the honor to refer to his oral communication of Feb. 12, 1941. . . ." So began the note sent recently to Prince Ascanio Colonna, am-



THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

Open to the public for the first time this week, the National Gallery of Art will be an object of interest to thousands of visitors to Washington this spring. It houses the great Mellon, Widener, and Kress art collections.

bassador from Italy. The oral communication to which Secretary Cordell Hull refers is the one that requested the moving of the United States consulate at Naples, the great port of southern Italy, and that at Palermo, on the northern coast of Sicily, to a point away from the coast and at least as far north as Rome.

The secretary of state assured the ambassador that the Italian government's request would be complied with, and he then made a counter request. He asked that all Italian officials, except those belonging to the embassy in Washington, confine their movements to the areas in which they discharge their duties. He asked, also, that the ambassador keep the State Department informed as to the travels of the embassy's military and naval officers outside of Washington. In addition, the secretary informed the Italian representative that the United States ambassador in Rome had been instructed to request the closing of the Italian consulates at Newark, New Jersey, and Detroit, Michigan.

It is clearly a game of tit for tat that this country is playing with Italy, though we have not dealt with the Italians exactly as they have dealt with us. Italy has forbidden all foreign diplomats to leave Rome without the express permission of the Italian government, and we have not restricted the personnel of the Italian embassy in this way. What we have done, however, may serve as a warning to Italy.

## Income Tax

Saturday, March 15, was the last day for income tax returns. This year the date meant more to Americans than it ever did, for lowered exemptions brought into existence a whole new class of taxpayers. Between 15 and 16 million sent in returns this year as against some eight million last year.

As the check on this page shows, the income tax has increased tremendously in importance since its beginning in 1914, though the growth in revenue has been by no means a steady one. When, in 1913, the sixteenth amendment to the Constitution gave Congress the "power to lay and collect taxes on incomes," it was generally believed that revenue derived from such taxes would simply supplement in a small way the funds derived from other sources. The income tax was intended to help out chiefly in times of emergency.

At first this was the case. In 1914, the government collected \$735,000,000, only \$71,000,000 of which came from taxes on incomes. In 1940, however, the United States collected about \$5,700,000,000, and income taxes provided \$2,102,000,000 of the total.

The estimates for 1941 and 1942 are gratifyingly large, and it is now thought that actual receipts will be even larger than the estimates. Nevertheless, next year may bring increased surtaxes and still lower exemptions, for the defense program and aid for Britain are pushing government

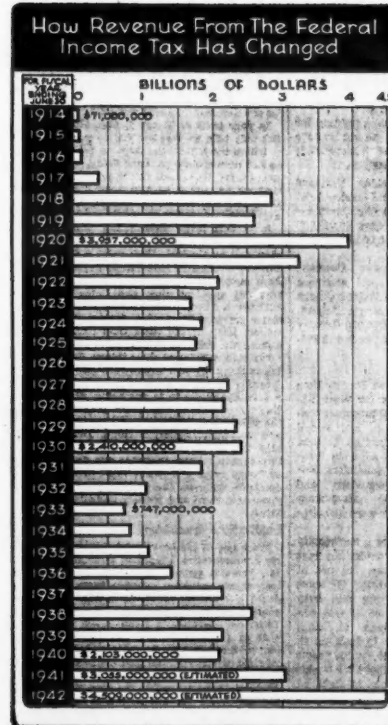
expenditures to dizzy heights. As soon as figures are compiled from the newly collected returns, Congress will begin to consider what taxes need be imposed for the coming fiscal year.

## National Gallery

Tonight President Roosevelt will accept on behalf of the nation the newly completed National Gallery of Art, whose gleaming white marble building stands along an avenue between the White House and the Capitol. Erected with funds provided by the late Andrew Mellon, the gallery houses notable collections of sculpture and paintings which were given by Mr. Mellon, Joseph E. Widener, and Samuel H. Kress, and others.

No less interesting to the visitor than these exhibits will be the building itself. The 12-ton bronze doors open into halls and rooms in which the air is regulated to a constant degree of temperature and humidity. Out of sight in the basement are hundreds of water pumps, fans, motors, meters, ice-making machines, heat regulators, and valves hitched up to a maze of pipes. The entire system is controlled by a giant switchboard, on which dials, signal lights and bells, and graphs show the engineers exactly how efficiently the machinery is controlling conditions within the building.

Both sunlight and artificial light will be as carefully regulated and distributed as the temperature is checked. All light must come through special glass ceilings, which permit a constant amount of rays to pass through and illuminate the displays below. This glass roof is strong enough



COURTESY N. Y. TIMES

to bear a man's weight, but if a portion of it is struck sharply, it breaks into a dust which is so fine that it will neither damage paintings nor injure visitors in the building.

## F.D.R.'s Helpers

Probably no President of the United States ever found time hanging heavy on his hands, but Franklin D. Roosevelt is busy even for a President of the United States. Consequently, he has surrounded himself with men who can advise and assist him. At the beginning of his ninth year in office, the group consists of a number of special advisers and five executive assistants.

Harry L. Hopkins, informal secretary of the so-called "War Cabinet" (the secretaries of state, war, navy, and treasury), is first among the advisers. Thomas G. Corcoran, once adviser number one, still has some influence. Supreme Court Justices Felix Frankfurter and William O. Douglas are close to the President, and so is William C. Bullitt, former ambassador to France and Russia. Harold Smith, capable director of the budget, has become one of the really big men of the administration. Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau is a good friend of the President's. Stephen Early, press secretary, continues to advise on public relations.

Men like Harold L. Ickes, the secretary of the interior, and Robert H. Jackson, the attorney general, are still in favor, but the President's increasing preoccupation with foreign affairs prevents their exercising as much influence with him as they once did.

## Dirt Farmer

The secretary of agriculture is a real farmer. North of Wildcat Creek, in Carroll County, Indiana, there is a farm which has belonged to his family for a hundred years. It is a good farm, too, producing wheat, corn, alfalfa, Hampshire hogs, and Aberdeen Angus cattle. One reason it is an exceptionally good farm is that on February 28, 1893, Claude Raymond Wickard was born on it.



CLAUDE R. WICKARD

At Purdue University, Indiana, Claude earned a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture. Then he went home to test the theories he had learned. He found them good, and he proceeded to do some important pioneering in the cultivation of soil-building crops. After three years of successful farming he married, and soon two young Wickards of a new generation were roaming the old fields. Wickard's farm and farm methods were widely discussed, and the mid-western magazine, *Prairie Farmer*, listed him as "Master Farmer of Indiana."

His first experience in politics came in 1932 when he was elected to the state senate. Two years later he went to Washington to serve as assistant chief of the corn-and-hog section of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Hard work and native ability brought him promotion, and by 1936 he was director of the north central division of the reorganized AAA. His achievement here was given little publicity, but it brought his appointment as undersecretary of agriculture in February 1940, and his elevation to the secretaryship last August.

Mr. Wickard likes his job and takes it very seriously. He is a "thoroughgoing New Dealer," and last year he said that he intended to follow the policies of his predecessor, Henry A. Wallace. He believes that American agriculture should continue with the "tried and sound two-horse team of soil conservation and production control."

## The American Observer

A Weekly Review of Social Thought and Action

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# The Week Abroad

## Far East

### (1) Jane and Japan

Every now and then a new edition of the large, flat book called *Jane's Fighting Ships* appears in the bookstores. Not many people wish to spend the \$20 it costs for a book about navies, but newspaper editors and naval men follow it with great interest, for *Jane's* is the recognized authority on the world's navies. Carefully compiled on the basis of a great many diplomatic reports, it presents a conservative and generally accurate source of naval information.

The 1941 edition of *Jane's Fighting Ships* was read with more than usual interest, after it made its appearance last week. It revealed that Japan launched three 40,000-ton battleships last year, that two more are under construction; that three pocket-battleships of 12,000 to 15,000 tons have also been launched, and another is on the way. This information, *Jane's* admits, may

cutting Ethiopia into two pieces and making unified Italian resistance impossible.

But while this was going on, the center of interest had shifted back to the Libyan front. Diplomatic sources in Washington reported that Germany had landed 100,000 men and 1,000 tanks in the western part of Italian Libya. British sources denied this emphatically as a gross exaggeration. How such a huge force could be moved through mine fields and past a British naval cordon was a question. But it was pointed out also that mines can be cleared away, and the British cordon was thin. There could be no doubt that a considerable German force had landed in Libya. The British are reported to have 110,000 men and 550 tanks in that region. The arrival of German mechanized forces in such numbers might turn the tide.

Britain was not the only country worrying about North Africa, however. German forces in Libya are closer to French than

tightly as possible, have for some months been seizing vessels transporting food to French ports. This has stirred intense resentment in Vichy government quarters, where it is said that unless food is permitted into France, the nation will face a famine in the coming months. Officials in Vichy have warned that unless the British relax their blockade, they will resort to the use of French naval units to convoy the food-bearing vessels. Such action, if it should be taken, involves the danger of a clash between British and French warships; and, subsequently perhaps, the entrance of France once again into the war, this time on the side of the Axis powers.

### Barter in Madrid

In Madrid, last week, there were several indications that General Franco was turning increasingly toward Britain in the hope of securing food for his thousands of sick and hungry people—something he has been unable to get from Hitler and Mussolini. While British and Spanish officials were affixing their signatures to an agreement under which British rubber and wheat will be exchanged for Spanish oranges and mercury, the British naval blockade was permitting wheat-laden ships from Argentina and Canada to steam through to the ports of Spain.

Neither Berlin nor Rome had any comment to make on this. But from the Italian embassy in Madrid came an icy observation on another subject. "Despite numerous and increasing requests," embassy officials stated, General Franco had refused to permit Spaniards to volunteer for military service in Italy, recalling grimly that without the tens of thousands of troops sent into Spain by Mussolini, several years ago, Franco would have lost the civil war. In the meantime, the Italian government has pressed a heavy bill for goods and services rendered during the civil war to the Franco government, and it is plain that Franco himself has lost the favor of Rome.

### Trends at Leipzig

The old city of Leipzig, in the heart of Germany, is not a striking place, as German cities go. It lies in a plain, where long lines of trees mark roads, and its level, modern skyline gives little hint of the important role it has played in the cultural and commercial history of Germany. Modern Leipzig is bustling, its people are somewhat dour, and its downtown business district smells somewhat of garlic. But the world knows Leipzig as a great publishing center for literature and music, and as the center of the great annual fairs which have been held ever since Russian merchants began to bring



TOO MANY WAR DOGS—WE HOPE!  
SHOEMAKER IN CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

their winter fur catch for exhibition in that old medieval town 800 years ago.

For the second time since the war began, the Leipzig spring fair opened its doors for business last week. In all, 22 states in Europe and Asia were represented, but only the exhibits of Germany, Italy, and Russia occupied much space. There were oranges from Spain, textiles from Japan, and a wide variety of "ersatz" substitutes for cotton and wool fiber, rubber, and leather. The absence of machinery indicated that German-Italian factories have none to spare for display purposes.

But Germans who wandered through the fairgrounds looking at typewriters, woolen cloth, and leather boots from abroad, could do little but look. Most such "luxury" products have been unobtainable in Germany for some years. And only a few people can afford to buy those that are still to be found here and there. The reason for this is indicated in a report issued by the U. S. Department of Commerce, a few days ago. According to this report, Germany is now spending 72 per cent of her national income on the war.

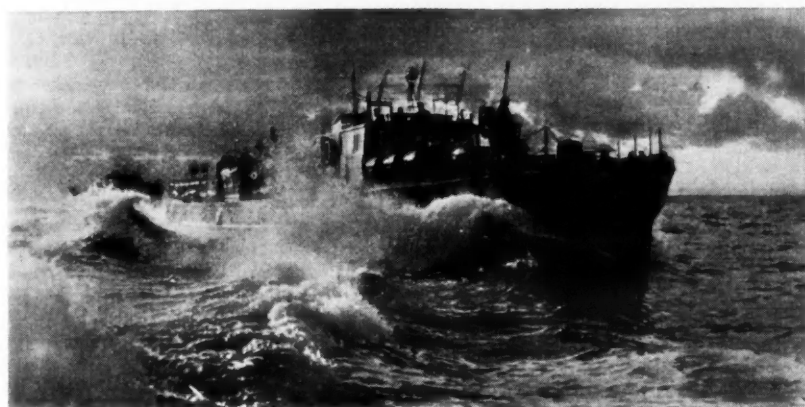
### Yugoslav Regent

Since Axis pressure on Yugoslavia has coincided with a cabinet crisis within that land, the burden of formulating Yugoslav foreign policy has fallen upon the shoulders of Prince Paul, who is acting as regent until the young king, Peter II, comes of age.

It is a curious thing that Yugoslavia should be steered closer to Berlin and Rome by a man who is at heart pro-British. Paul is the brother-in-law of the Duchess of Kent, an Oxford graduate, and one who is very fond of British clothes, books, music, and general customs.

When King Alexander of Yugoslavia was assassinated in France, in 1934, Paul was chosen as regent because he was a cousin of the late king, and his "closest competent male relative." Paul has been considered a little too pro-British by some factions in Yugoslavia, but generally he has been a popular figure and a moderating influence on the politics of that Balkan kingdom. A personable and cultured man, he does not take kindly to politics, but prefers the quiet life in his country home. He is said to live only for the day when Peter II will come of age, but there is some doubt as to whether this will be this coming September, when Peter will be 18, or in September 1944, when he will be 21 years old.

**PRONUNCIATIONS:** Addis Ababa (ad'dis ah'wah-wah), Bosnia (boz'ni-ah—o as in hot), Croat (kroe'ah), Eritrea (eh-ree-tray'ah), Fiume (fu'may—u as in use), Herzegovina (hair-tseh-goe-vee'nah), Leipzig (lip'tsik—first i as in ice), Matchek (mat'chek), Yosuke Matsuoka (yoe-soo'kay mah-tsoo-oe'kah), Morava (moe'rah-vah), Nomura (noe-moo'-rah), Salonika (sah-loe-nee'kah), Tepelini (teh-peh-lee'nee), Trieste (tree-es'tay), Vardar (vahr-dahr'), Weygand (vay'gahn').



PATROLLING THE CHANNEL

Germany has built large speedboats which will have an important part to play if invasion is attempted.

not be quite accurate, but if true, its implication is that Japan's naval-building program is progressing so rapidly that the scales of naval balance in the Pacific may soon be tipped against the United States, which now has 12 battleships in the Pacific to Japan's 10.

### (2) Diplomatic Visit

While this information was being digested in the United States, a strong hint that much closer cooperation between Tokyo and the Axis might soon be forthcoming was to be found in the decision that Japanese Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka should visit Hitler and Mussolini. This decision was reached only after bitter opposition by some Japanese statesmen who argued that it would jeopardize relations with the United States at a time when Admiral Nomura, newly arrived in Washington, was trying his best to smooth them over.

Japanese collaboration with Germany and Italy has been taken for granted during the last several months. Of more possible importance is the fact that Matsuoka is to cross Russia on his way to and from the Axis capitals in Europe, and that he will pay an official visit to Soviet leaders. In view of the fact that Hitler, Mussolini, and Matsuoka would like very much to win Russia over to the Axis—at least until Britain has been dealt with—developments leading up to and following the Moscow conferences will be followed very closely.

### African Front

Having conquered Italian Somaliland and struck deep into Eritrea, the British and Empire forces began in earnest the most ambitious campaign of their war in East Africa, last week. One powerful column of South African forces had begun to move on Ethiopia from the south, another was pushing down from the highlands around Lake Tana in the northwest. The objective of these forces is apparently to effect a juncture at or near Addis Ababa, thus

British armies. Were the German armies in Libya intended to fight only the British, or also to keep watch on General Weygand and his French colonial armies, 200,000 to 300,000 strong? Several hundred German observers were reported to be landing in French North Africa last week, presumably to see to it that France lived up to her armistice agreements. At the same time, however, General Weygand flew to Vichy for a hurried conference with Marshal Pétain. France, it appeared, was becoming concerned about her North African empire.

### Food for France?

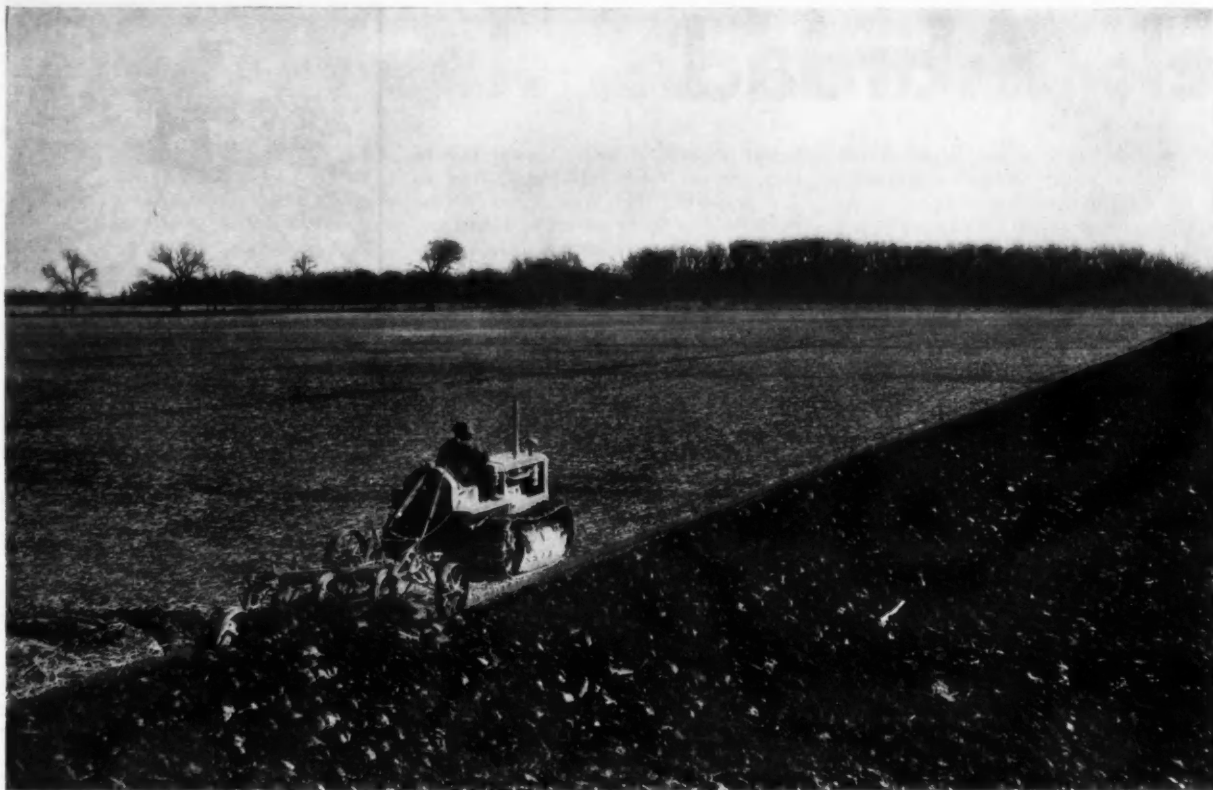
A serious dispute has been developing between France and Britain in the last few days over the question of food shipments to the unoccupied regions of France. The British, in carrying out their policy of blockading the European continent as



TURKEY PREPARES

Turkish infantry on the march during recent maneuvers. Turkey is reported to have been massing troops along her Greek and Bulgarian frontiers in preparation for trouble.





THE MACHINE CHANGES THE FARM

The modern farm produces more food with less labor. In 1939 there were an estimated 1,626,000 tractors in use in the United States—almost double the number reported in 1930. It is a notable fact that this great increase in the use of machinery took place during a period of depression.

CATERPILLAR TRACTOR COMPANY

## The War and U. S. Agriculture

(Concluded from page 1)

tain foods which they have previously been unable to obtain.

Notwithstanding all these developments—in addition to the possibility that Great Britain will purchase greater quantities of foodstuffs as the months pass—the farmers of the nation are likely to be confronted by serious difficulties in the months ahead. They are not expected to reap the benefits which came to them as a result of the first World War, when the demand for their products was so great as to cause prices greatly to rise and to cause agriculture in general to experience booming times.

The present war has wrought terrific dislocations to American agriculture which the nation will have to face in the days ahead. Foreign markets, which were already shrinking before the outbreak of war, have slumped even further. The entire continent of Europe has been shut off to American agriculture. Up to now, England has been utilizing her resources to buy munitions and ships and planes and other war equipment, rather than to purchase farm products. How much has been lost in dollars and cents is difficult to determine because the United States Department of Agriculture is reluctant to give estimates. However, it is no exaggeration to say that the loss has already amounted to at least half a billion dollars.

### Examples of Loss

We may cite the example of a few of our basic farm crops to see the extent to which the war has affected the American farmer. In 1938-39, the United States exported 107,000,000 bushels of wheat; in 1939-40, the figure was 45,000,000; and estimates for this year cut this latter figure in half. Last year, we exported 6,000,000 bales of cotton; the highest estimate for this year is one-fourth that figure. Tobacco growers have lost markets for 250,000,000 pounds; and similar losses have been sustained by producers of many other crops.

It would be a mistake to attribute the loss of foreign markets entirely to the present war. As a matter of fact, the war has merely intensified a trend which has been going on in American agriculture for the last four decades. The prosperity of the American farmer depends upon the exportation of part of the annual production of certain basic crops, such as wheat and cotton, and it has been the curtailment of this foreign market which has greatly added to his problems during recent years.

One should not assume, however, that the war abroad and its adverse effect upon farm exports have thrown American agriculture into a state of acute depression. As was pointed out in the House of Representatives during the debates on the appropriations bill and as President Roosevelt emphasized in his recent radio address, the American farmer is in a better position today than he was a few years ago; that is, if we consider agriculture as a whole. The total farm income last year is estimated by the Department of Agriculture to have passed the nine-billion-dollar mark, which is more than twice the amount of farm income in 1932 and more than the income for 1930, before the full weight of the depression was felt. It was also an increase of more than half a billion dollars over 1939.

### Government Program

Naturally, a considerable part of the increase in farm income during recent years has resulted from the payments which the federal government has been making to farmers under the New Deal. In 1939, for example, the federal government made payments amounting to \$807,000,000 to farmers; in 1940, \$766,000,000. One of the major objectives of the Roosevelt administration has been to raise farm prices from the low levels to which they had sunk during, and even before, the depression. The principal feature of its present program consists of paying farmers who turn over part of their land to soil-conservation projects. For example, those farmers who take part of their acreage out of the production of such crops as wheat and turn it over to clover or alfalfa, are paid a bounty. This program is designed to help the farmer in two ways: First, it adds to his total income by giving him a direct payment from the government; and, second, it is designed to boost the price of farm products by cutting down on the total production.

That the American farmer has received benefits from this program no one will deny. Statistics on his income show this. Generally improved economic conditions during the last year or so have also aided him. In fact, it has been the improved domestic market that has offset the losses sustained in the foreign markets.

While American agriculture as a whole may be better off today than it was a few years ago and while the total farm income of the nation may have increased, the plight of many individual farmers, espe-

cially the small farmer, is serious. In a recent article appearing in *The New Republic*, in which he discussed the future of American agriculture, Secretary of Agriculture Wickard called attention to this trend:

### Mechanization

The next few years probably will witness accelerated mechanization on the farm and an increased reliance on technology. Machines alone may displace as many as 500,000 farm workers in the next decade. The number of tractors may jump 30 per cent, or 500,000, in the next decade.

In the absence of counter influences, we can predict some of the results of these developments.

For those who can buy additional land and can afford the improved techniques and machines, there will be better health, less drudgery and isolation, greater leisure, more chance for recreation, a fuller home life.

But the results for many other farmers are likely to be just the reverse unless someone or something intervenes. Without help from some outside source, the poorer farmers will not be able to take full advantage of technological developments. Many of them are likely to fall farther and farther behind their more fortunate neighbors. Owners would be turned into tenants and tenants into laborers and migrants.

Secretary Wickard put the matter bluntly when he said, in the same article, that "there are about 12 million farm workers, and perhaps not more than nine millions are actually needed to produce for existing domestic and foreign markets." Altogether, some 32,000,000 persons live on farms in the United States and the number required to produce what is needed is smaller than that figure by several million. In all, the farm population of the country constitutes about one-fourth of the total population, whereas the farm income is but one-tenth of the nation's total income.

What has been happening in American agriculture during recent years is something of a revolution. More and more, farms have been increasing in size, while the number has been declining. In other words, hundreds of thousands of farmers have been pushed off the land or forced into tenancy or share-cropping. At the other end of the scale, those farmers who could afford the newest machines and who could reduce their costs of production by mechanized farming methods have been able to engage in profitable farming. It is estimated that at least a fourth of the American farmers today are living at a bare subsistence level. In the debates in the House of Representatives on the farm appropriations bill, Representative Sparkman of Alabama described this trend as follows:

The tremendous impact of these forces upon the bottom third of the nation's farmers is verified in startling fashion by the 1940 Census. Figures recently released show that the number of farms in America decreased by 3.1 per cent between 1930 and 1940, although the total acreage in farms increased by 7.5 per cent. Over the decade the average size of farms increased from 156 to 174 acres, or 11.5 per cent. More and more farmers were being pushed from the land as farm units became bigger. For the 30-year period between 1910 and 1940, although the land in farms increased by 20.7 per cent, the number of farms decreased by 4.3 per cent, and the average size of farms was 26 per cent larger in 1940 than in 1910.

This displacement of people on the land has continued to a startling degree in the last five years. During the depression jobless people tried to recover a place on the land. There was actually an increase in the number of farms from 1930 to 1935. But the pressure on small farmers was too great, and between 1935 and 1940 more than a tenth of all the nation's farms disappeared, a decrease of more than 700,000 farms, one of the most drastic changes ever recorded in the number of this nation's farm operators. While this decrease in farms was taking place, the total acreage in farms increased by 6,000,000 acres and the size of the average farm increased by 12.4 per cent over the five years.

### Low Incomes

This trend has reflected itself in a number of ways. The low incomes which a fourth or a third of the farm population receive are inadequate to provide for a minimum standard of decent and healthful living. Surveys conducted among the lowest third of the farm income groups show an alarming prevalence of diseases or physical defects which could be cured or corrected by proper diet and living conditions.

Poor housing conditions are as prevalent on the farms as in the city slums of the nation. A national farm survey conducted a few years ago showed that nine out of every 10 farmhouses were lacking in indoor toilet facilities. It is conservatively estimated that it would cost some eight and a half billion dollars to put the farmhouses of the nation in good repair, to meet minimum standards of health and decency.

The subject of farm tenancy alone would require several articles. All we need point out here is that tenancy has been increasing in this country at an alarming rate during recent decades. About 40,000 farm families are added to the ranks of tenants, until today nearly half of all farmers do not own the farms on which they live and work. Moreover, about a third of the 2,800,000 tenant families move to a different place every year. This causes a deterioration of the soil and general instability.

There is a brighter side to the farm situation. As pointed out earlier, farm income has increased as a result of the program which the federal government has inaugurated. The attempt is being made, on a modest scale, to deal with the problem of tenancy and its evils by helping farm families to obtain farms. Some 13,000 farm families have been provided with government loans for this purpose. In addition, a program of general agricultural rehabilitation has been undertaken to help needy families get a new start on the land. On a dozen fronts, the federal government is working to assist the farmers of the nation.

While this program of government aid to agriculture may not be expanded during the months ahead, it will certainly continue and will serve to bolster agriculture. But students of the farm problem clearly recognize that when the present emergency is over, we are likely to be still confronted by a serious situation. The farmer finds himself victim of the industrial revolution on the farm and drastic measures may be required to deal with the changed conditions which face American agriculture.

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"The 32,000,000 Farmers." *Fortune*, February 1940, pp. 68-71. "Only two per cent of the world's farm population, they have made of the U. S. the world's greatest agricultural producer."

"The Future of the Farm," by C. R. Wickard. *The New Republic*, February 3, 1941, pp. 138-141. The secretary of agriculture tells how technology has caused a good deal of the farm problem.



# Increasing Diplomatic Pressure Brought to Bear on Yugoslavia

(Concluded from page 1)

would not attempt to—thus any possibility of a Turkish-Yugoslav front was rapidly dwindling. Finally, it came just as a cabinet crisis was brewing in Belgrade—a crisis which springs from the deep-seated racial differences which have weakened Yugoslavia ever since it was created.

## Historical Background

The Kingdom of Yugoslavia, as it stands today, is a product of the peace treaties that followed the World War. Its core was the pre-war Kingdom of Serbia, which offered such astonishing resistance to the armies of Austria-Hungary in the opening years of that war. In addition it contains lands inhabited by the Croats and Slovenes, formerly included in the old Austrian Empire, and the small regions of Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Montenegro.

At best, the nation was a racial hodge-podge. At first it was called the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, but in 1929 that name was abandoned in favor of the name Yugoslavia—"Kingdom of the South Slavs."

In this strange kingdom, the Serbs constituted the largest group, followed by the Croats, and then, at some distance, the Slovenes. Together, these three races have accounted for 80 per cent of the population. But in addition there are about half a million Germans, as many Hungarians, and a sprinkling of Macedonian Slavs, Albanians, Bulgars, and Turks. The total population of Yugoslavia today is 15,703,000, which makes it about the size of Czechoslovakia before it was partitioned by Germany.

When Yugoslavia was created, the idea was to weld the southern Slavs into a single unified state. There were strong bonds among these people, among the three leading groups in particular. But there were also differences, the Serbs belonged to the Greek Orthodox Church, while Croats and Slovenes have always been Roman Catholic. What is more, the Serbs were subjected for centuries to Turkish rule, while the other two races were absorbing Latin culture. So to a

by the Axis, and remained alert and strong in the face of the growing threat of Italy, on the northwest and across the narrow Adriatic, and Germany, along the northern border.

But while the quarrels between Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes were still in progress, the seeds of internal dissension were carefully laid in the northern provinces by Nazi agents. These provinces contain the Croats and Slovenes, and there are a number of extremist Croats who would prefer to see a semi-autonomous Croatia, under German domination, rather than a province of Croatia which is losing its racial identity as a part of a united Yugoslavia. Therefore, it is assumed that a fifth-column movement of considerable proportions may be awaiting the order to begin operations, and this fact has undoubtedly caused the Yugoslav cabinet to hesitate to undertake resistance to the Axis.

Yugoslavia's geographic position also makes resistance to any concentrated Axis pressure difficult at this time. The country itself is so shaped as almost to defy description. Roughly, it might be compared to a squash, wide at the middle and tapering at the ends, standing diagonally on the northern frontier of Greece. Economically it is not well balanced. Its northern region, which lies across part of the great middle basin of the Danube, produces more food than it needs; the southern part not enough. There is some coal and iron, but it has not been developed to any appreciable degree. Copper, bauxite, and chrome ore have given rise to a lively trade with Germany and Italy, but one which has only served to make the Yugoslavs economically dependent on the nations to which they are politically opposed.

If nature had shaped the topography of Yugoslavia in such a manner that its river flowed westward into the Adriatic, that land might have become a great Mediterranean power. But a solid wall of mountains shuts off that land from the sea. There are a few narrow shelves of lowland



THE POSITION OF YUGOSLAVIA

southern part of the country, passes into Greece, and empties into the Aegean Sea at the port of Salonika. A railroad follows this river to Salonika, and a very large proportion of Yugoslavia's outbound commerce moves down this route to the sea, both by river and by rail. In normal times, Salonika serves as the only Yugoslav outlet not dominated by a big foreign power. In times of war, it is an extremely vital back door through which troops and supplies can be moved in large quantities.

At this point it is worth recalling that Salonika played a very important role in the last war. Late in 1915 a British-French force of 150,000 men landed in Salonika to bolster Allied prestige in the Balkans. For two years this army did nothing but dig trenches and build barracks, but in September 1918, it proved one of the decisive instruments in the war. Striking off to the east, it crushed the armies of Bulgaria, severed Germany and Turkey, and smashed the German eastern front, thus hastening the collapse in the west.

## Role of Salonika

A little while ago, when Prime Minister Churchill asked the Greek government for permission to land a force at Salonika, it seemed likely that the British would like to repeat this operation, if possible. If Turkey and Yugoslavia were to join Britain and Greece, a Balkan front might be created. The Yugoslav forces might withdraw in the north, taking up positions in a ring of mountains. So long as the line could hold, and supplies could be kept moving steadily in through Salonika, such a front would prove to be very embarrassing to the German government.

George Weller, foreign correspondent for the *Chicago Daily News*, reported from Belgrade a few days ago that the generals of the Yugoslav armies favor making a stand against Germany, if necessary, and refusing point-blank to permit German troops to move down the Vardar valley and attack the Greeks just north of Salonika. The generals still feel protected, he writes, "against mobile attacks from the Rumanian and Hungarian flanks, because spring rains and Danube floods have filled the marshes there, making them impassable to mechanized equipment. But to allow the Germans to penetrate Macedonia and meet the Italians there would be to close the last segment of the Axis frame which now surrounds Yugoslavia, and to cut off the last possibility of British aid, in the remote event England should be able to offer and Yugoslavia to accept it."

But Yugoslav politicians do not seem to believe that their army could hold out for long. The examples of the Low Countries and France are too fresh in their minds. The groundwork for Yugoslavia's fall was laid when Germany extended her control over Austria, then Hungary, then—more recently—over Rumania, and finally, over

Bulgaria. Each extension of control has lengthened the sector of Yugoslav border under Germany's control, and today the point of interest has narrowed down to Salonika itself.

Salonika lies across the land routes between Turkey and Greece, and across the only good railroad entering Greece. For this reason it is the key port of the entire Aegean region. If Hitler obtains Yugoslav permission to pass his troops down the Vardar, matters will be made much easier for him, since by that route he can use his mechanized forces. An attack from Bulgaria, down the Struma valley, would be much more difficult, since roads are poor and the surrounding countryside mountainous.

## A Serious Dilemma

Once again Hitler has a good arguing point. If Yugoslavia yields, and permits this passage, matters will go hard with Greece, which will have to fight a two-pronged attack. If Yugoslavia refuses, and German forces take the trouble to launch their attack from Bulgaria, then the problem of the Greeks will be easier, but matters will go hard with Yugoslavia, for that land can then be shut off completely by Hitler. And the Yugoslavs have had ample opportunity to observe what has happened to the many nations of Europe which have said "no" to Hitler in the past.

The latest reports from Athens give a hint that Greece will make no serious attempt to defend Salonika, in the case of an attack by Germany. The present Greek plan is said to involve the abandonment of the northeastern corner of Greece to the Germans and retirement to a fortified mountain line where mechanized equipment will find the going extremely hard. This would seem to indicate that German troops may soon occupy Salonika without much trouble. In that event, Germany will have secured her first window on the Mediterranean. From a base in Salonika, Germany could threaten Turkey with perhaps telling effect, exercise a measure of control over shipping passing between the Black and Mediterranean Seas, and perhaps launch a large-scale attack on the British in the Mediterranean.

In any event, the fall of Yugoslavia and Salonika, however accomplished, is likely to spell the end of the Balkan phase of the present crisis, and transfer it to the Mediterranean. The arrival of German dive bombers on the Italian island of Rhodes, off southwestern Turkey, the appearance of German officers in Albania, and of a large German force in western Libya, indicates that, when Yugoslavia is out of the way, new campaigns may begin and a different set of geographic names appear in the war headlines—names which may include Turkey, the Dardanelles, the Aegean islands, Syria, and perhaps the Moslem lands to the south.



ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL STREETS IN BELGRADE

considerable degree there are wide differences between the Serbs, who dominate the land, and the Croats and Slovenes, who run a poor second—differences which have kept the land on tenterhooks, off and on, ever since it first came into being.

## Unification Attempt

During the last few years, under the moderating influence of Prince Paul, the regent, a great deal has been done to draw the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes more closely together. Dr. Matchek, around whom the opposition parties have gathered, has been vice-premier since the autumn of 1939, and for the first time in the history of Yugoslavia something approaching co-operation between the three leading Slav races has been achieved. The Yugoslavs have steered clear of economic traps set

along that coast, but rivers are precipitous and swift, the mountains in many places drop almost straight into the sea, and harbors are few. The two natural harbors of Yugoslavia, Trieste and Fiume, were seized by Italy after the World War.

Thus, instead of facing toward the warm Mediterranean and developing into a maritime power, Yugoslavia has faced north and east, into the Balkans. The big rivers which drain her northeastern plain all join the Danube near Belgrade, and flow off in a long, winding course to the east, in the direction opposite that in which Yugoslav commerce naturally flows.

There is another important outlet, however, which takes on some significance at this time. It is the deep valley cut through central Yugoslavia by the Morava and Vardar rivers. The latter river drains the



# News and Comment



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

## MONUMENT IN CONCRETE

Grand Coulee is the biggest thing ever built by man.

ON March 22, next Saturday, the first two generators at Grand Coulee Dam in Washington will go into operation. Small though they are, in comparison with the giant generators which are to be installed later, the two will spin out an amount of power which would be sufficient for the needs of a city with a population of 60,000.

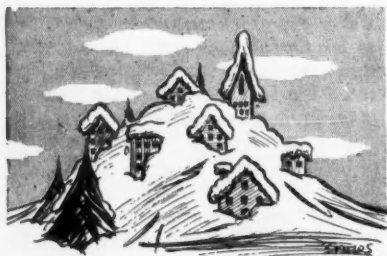
In the months ahead, 18 generators—each of them larger than any other generator in existence—will be put to work. A 75-car freight train is needed to transport just one of the generators from the factory to Grand Coulee, which is the largest structure ever built by man. When the dam and all its generators go into full operation, they will have the capacity to produce electricity equal to about one-fourth the amount of power used in all New England during 1940.

Work on Grand Coulee was started in 1934. To give some idea of how vast was this greatest engineering project of all time, Richard Neuberger wrote in *Our Promised Land* (New York: Macmillan, \$3):

"Four ocean liners the size of the giant *Queen Mary* could be placed on the crest of the dam, and still they would not stretch from one end to the other. In bulk, Grand Coulee will exceed the 20 next largest dams in the country combined. It will contain enough concrete to build a standard automobile highway from Philadelphia to Seattle and back by way of Los Angeles. Sufficient water will flow through the dam each year to provide New York City's drinking supply for a century. In the twin power houses, each more than twice as high as the Leaning Tower of Pisa, so much electricity will be generated that all the switches will have to be thrown far away from the plant by remote control, otherwise the men operating the dam would be instantly electrocuted."

## Arctic Archeology

Archeologists dig into ancient ruins in many strange places, but not all of them



are in Egypt, India, China, and other lands we know to be old. In the March issue of *Natural History*, Froelich G. Rainey, a University of Alaska professor of anthropology, writes of archeological excavations in the bleak northwest corner of Alaska. Here, "on a sand bar 20 miles from the mainland, where there is no fuel, not a single tree and hardly any vegetation of any kind, and where gales blow for weeks with the temperature at 30° below zero," traces of an ancient Arctic city have been found. The archeologists called it Ipiutak, the name of an Eskimo village there.

The buried Arctic metropolis of Ipiutak was nearly a mile long and boasted five

avenues aggregating at least 600 or 800 houses. The astonishing fact is revealed that at least 4,000 persons must have occupied the village, a population which can scarcely be explained on the limited resources of the site as known today.

How did this city come to be established so far north? Where did its people come from? Certain features of their houses and graves suggest a kinship with the Eskimos, but only to a limited extent. "Ivory carvings and beautifully chipped flint implements suggest a relation between these people and the eastern Asiatics."

These somewhat intangible clues allow us to piece together tentatively a probable story. A Neolithic people of eastern Asia moved northward along the Asiatic coast, crossed over to the American shores, perhaps at Bering Strait, and settled the American Arctic coast at least as far north as Point Hope. This was . . . probably before the birth of Christ.

A theory has been in existence for some years to the effect that the Indians of North and South America came to America from Asia. The discoveries at Ipiutak may be of considerable value in putting it to the test.

## New Planes for Old

"When spring weather permits the resumption of aerial warfare over England and Europe," writes Frederick Graham in the *New York Times*, "most of the aircraft that played leading roles in the big show last summer and fall will be in secondary or supporting parts." Plane types change very rapidly, and those are already outdated. He continues:

Although we think of the World War as being on a much slower beat than this one, the fact remains that from the time the first plane was used until the Armistice was signed the British put into service no fewer than 27 different types of single-seater plane. The French even improved on this, changing 31 times; the Italians made 13 changes, Germany an even dozen, and the United States, a later starter, managed to make nine changes. In the matter of bombers for the World War, changes were not so numerous. The British developed 21 different types, the French and Italians 11 each, and the Germans only six.

So instead of the "gallant little Spitfire, sometimes referred to as the savior of Britain, and the Hurricane, with its deadly rear guns," the emphasis this spring will more likely be on Spitfire II, and a new Paul Boulton Defiant. On the German side, a new giant bomber, the Focke-Wulf "Kurier," powered with four engines of 1,000 horsepower each, is expected to cruise 500 miles out into the Atlantic after British shipping. And, if the present rate of development continues, it will not be long before these, too, are outdated models. These rapid changes (even during the World War the French Spad changed its models once a month) make it extremely difficult to produce planes as automobiles are built—by mass-production methods.

## Life Here and Abroad

Virgil Pinkley, a United Press correspondent, has just returned to the United States after a tour of 15 European countries and his impressions are summed up in a series of articles appearing in the Scripps-Howard newspapers. The difference between most of Europe and the United States, he writes, is the difference between life and death, food and hunger, freedom and serfdom, comfort and discomfort—a difference between all the things to which Americans are accustomed and sufferings which most of them have never seen. As Mr. Pinkley puts it:

It is beyond words to describe the brain-deadening anxiety which makes even living a trial for most Europeans today. But there are little things which in day-to-day living are most important. For instance, I asked a European who accompanied me to this country what most impressed him and he replied without hesitation: "Silk stockings, corn-on-the-cob, lights at night, plenty of hot water, uncensored newspapers and radio programs, food everywhere, and above all the right to

say what you please." To this list I would add real cream, real coffee, green salads, soap, clean towels, gasoline, warm clothes, and steam heat. It seems incredible that I can have at small cost such things as fresh vegetables, corn bread, sweet potatoes. In Europe you have to be a government official, a rich man, a party chieftain, or an army officer to have those things.

American newspapers are so far superior to Europe's that comparison seems silly. They are four to 50 times larger. They contain features, photographs, and special departments no European newspaper could offer and they express opinions and publish genuine news.

Recently I've seen boys five to 16 years old playing games in recreation grounds or vacant lots. In Europe they would be "somebody's youth," learning how to tear down and assemble a machine gun or scavenging for the ersatz factories.

## Help Wanted: Male

With a population now in excess of 457,000,000, China contains more people



than any other country in the world. It is about the last place anyone would expect to find a labor shortage.

Yet, China feels the need of more male workers, according to a current report of Kurt Bloch to the Institute of Pacific Relations—a report summarized in the March 8 issue of *Science News Letter*. There was a surplus of 8,000,000 Chinese male workers a few years ago, Bloch relates, but this has been absorbed by the war. Perhaps as many as 2,000,000 have been killed in the war, while about 5,000,000 are under arms, or engaged in purely military pursuits. In the meantime the Chinese are opening new mines, building new roads and factories, and trying to raise new crops. All this requires man power in very large quantities. Last year's crop was "none too good," and in order to make sure that there will be no food shortage, next winter, many more agricultural workers are needed.

One reason for this shortage may be found in the fact that China has comparatively little machinery to do the heavy work on roads, farms, and in mines. What she lacks in machinery she must replace with the muscles of her men.

## Gifts for the White House

Not a day passes that the White House does not receive scores of gifts sent to the President as tokens of esteem from every corner of the land. "The last time



I visited the White House mail rooms," writes Donald Wilhelm in an article appearing in the current *Reader's Digest*, "the air was atroph with the cheeping of 100 downy yellow chicks, a gift to F.D.R. A young bulldog was barking for release from his crate, and a baby alligator was sprawling in its carton. There were several paintings. . . . there was a horned toad, a plum pudding, an ancient manuscript, and several tables piled high with other gifts."

Every gift which reaches the White House is entered into a ledger and a letter

of thanks is sent to the donor, often signed by the President. But not all gifts are accepted. If White House attachés think that the sender could not really afford the gift and was making a sacrifice in doing so, the parcel is returned, of course with a letter of thanks. Often great quantities of food and delicacies are received at the Executive Mansion, particularly during holiday seasons; these are turned over to veterans' hospitals and old folks' homes.

Mr. Wilhelm lists some of the more unusual gifts which President Roosevelt has received during his eight years in office: an Arabian riding horse named "New Deal"; a live eagle; a huge, carved mahogany table so big that the front doors of the White House had to be removed to get it inside; a covered wagon made of salt crystals; and flea soap for Falla, the black Scottie that now has the run of the White House.

## The Taxpayer's Burden

Last Saturday night saw the deadline for income tax returns for the year 1940 and as millions of citizens hustled at the last moment to file their returns, there must have been a fair amount of good-natured grumbling over the increased tax payments. Grumbling about taxes has come to be accepted as part of the American scene, as much a part as baseball in the spring and peanuts at the circus. But to those whose grumbling might veer away from the line of good-natured sport, the *Washington Daily News* offers a reminder of the relatively light burden which the American taxpayer must bear in comparison with citizens in Great Britain or Canada.

The American citizen with a wife and two dependent children, whose income is \$2,500, pays no tax at all. In Canada that citizen would have to pay a tax of \$46; in Britain, a tax of \$311. If this same citizen earned \$5,000 a year, he would have to pay only \$75 to the United States government. But in Canada he would have to pay \$391; in Britain, \$1,196.

## In Brief

By June at the latest, the Detroit Tigers expect to lose the services of outfielder Hank Greenberg, one of the first big stars in professional sports to be called by the draft for military duty. Hollywood, too, is beginning to lose some of its famous citizens. Soon after he had been voted 1940's outstanding actor for his work in "The Philadelphia Story," James Stewart was told by his draft board to hold himself in readiness for a call sometime this month. The Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Academy award winner will soon exchange his gold statue, known as an "Oscar," for a rifle and pack.



JAMES STEWART

War Department engineers are surveying some of the 200 golf courses in the region of New York City to determine which, if any, of them could be converted into airplane landing fields. If their bunkers and hazards were leveled off and their trees chopped down, some of them, it is believed, might prove suitable for flying operations in an emergency.

## Information Test Answers

### American History

1. Theodore Roosevelt. Colombia used his statement to support her claim that the U. S. had encouraged Panama to revolt. 2. (d) South Carolina. 3. (c) Open-door policy. 4. "Remember the Maine," the Spanish-American War; "Don't give up the ship," the War of 1812; "Make the world safe for democracy," the World War; "Taxation without representation is tyranny," the Revolution. 5. (b) Daniel Webster. 6. McKinley.

### Geography

1. (d) Salonika. 2. (a) Black Sea. 3. (c) Syria. 4. (b) British. 5. (a) The interior is very dry. 6. (b) Pyrenees.